



Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions

PO Box 127
Munger MI 48747-0127

989.450.5942
Fax: 989.659.2911
E-mail: mifairs@yahoo.com

www.michiganfairs.org

October 21, 2009

**To: Members of the Senate Agriculture and Bioeconomy Committee and the
Senate Appropriations Department of Agriculture Subcommittee**

Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 24

The Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions (M.A.F.E.) is the statewide association that was organized in 1885 and represents our 87 fairs in the State of Michigan; including the 16 fairs that held harness racing this 2009 season.

The M.A.F.E. is calling on the state Legislature to overturn Governor Jennifer Granholm's recent Executive Order (EO 2009-45) which would strip the authority of hiring and managing the director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture (MDA) from the Commission of Agriculture.

The M.A.F.E. supports the current system which provides the bipartisan Commission the authority to employ the MDA director, as well as work closely in partnership with the agricultural community, including the MDA, to help build strong policies and forward-thinking practices that support the industry. Under the Governor's new approach, the Commission of Agriculture's role would be limited simply to provide a forum for gathering information.

Our county fairs in Michigan are regulated by several divisions within MDA:

- Fairs, Exhibitions and Racing Division
- Animal Industry Division
- Food and Dairy Division
- Emergency Preparedness

In addition, the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality also oversee and regulates some facets of the county fairs during fair week.

The M.A.F.E. and our members strongly encourage our state legislature to overturn this Executive Order and to allow the current structure that has served this industry so well to remain in place.

Every Day is a Challenging Fair Day in Michigan!

EJ Brown
Executive Director
Michigan Association of Fairs & Exhibitions

Convention dates: January 7-9, 2010 – 125TH Annual Convention
at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel & DeVos Place, Grand Rapids MI.

www.michiganfairs.org